

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced that he was able to secured \$1.45 million in congressionally-directed funding for local transportation, economic and community development projects.

“This is the next step to ensuring our local transportation needs are met and federal resources are available for critical community development,” **said Arcuri who is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.**

“I will continue to make sure that taxpayer dollars return home to help fund critical transportation projects and foster economic development and expansion right here where we need it most.”

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Conference Report (H.R. 3074), which passed the House of Representatives last night.

Local Funding Secured by Arcuri:

\$400,000 (an increase of \$150,000 above the House passed level) – Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA). Funds will be used for the design, land acquisition, and construction of a transit garage and maintenance facility in Utica. This facility would consolidate the two bus operating divisions of CENTRO in Oneida County (one for Utica and surrounding towns, and one for the City of Rome) into a single, modern, safe, and energy efficient facility. CNYRTA began providing consolidated countywide transit service in Oneida County in 2005 under its subsidiary, Centro of Oneida.

\$750,000 (an increase of \$50,000 above the House passed level) – NYS Routes 5, 8, & 12 Viaduct and Routes 5A and 5S. Funds will be used to reconstruct a viaduct that is structurally deficient and reconfigure the interchange of Route 5, 8 and 12 with Routes 5A and 5S. The reconstruction of the viaduct will increase the capacity, reduce congestion and improve safety of the arterial – resulting in improved transportation between Rome and Utica. This project will reduce travel times and transportation costs, making the Utica-Rome area more attractive for economic development initiatives.

\$200,000 – Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation for redevelopment of the former Rome Cable facility in Rome, NY. The Rome Community Brownfield Restoration Corporation (RCBRC), in partnership with the City of Rome, has undertaken the revitalization of the former Rome Cable facility to modify a portion of the former facility as part of business expansion and relocation by Owl Wire at the facility. To continue to support Owl Wire's expansion, RCBRC plans to undertake important structural, environmental, and safety improvements at the site.

\$100,000 – Players Theater in Utica, NY. The funds will be used to construct a 10,400 square foot steel building that will be the home of the theater. This building will be located on the southwest corner of State St. and Mandeville St. in Utica, NY. The building will house a main stage theatre (250 seats), an educational theatre (75 seats), lobby, dressing rooms, rest rooms, Green room and box office.

The Conference Report on H.R. 3074 also:

Improves and maintains funding for our nation's aging highway infrastructure and creates almost 59,500 jobs across all sectors of the economy.

Includes \$151 million more than current funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and \$765 million more than the President's request for the FAA's Airport Improvement Program which provides grants-in-aid for airport planning, construction, and development. Griffiss Park airfield in Rome, New York, has benefited greatly from this program, having received a total of \$17 million in AIP funds since 2004. Over the last few years, AIP funds have helped Griffiss continue to fully develop as a regional aviation facility, become the new home of Oneida County Airport, and create long-term regional economic growth.

Rejects efforts to eliminate the HOPE VI program, and instead provides \$120 million, \$21 million over 2007 levels, for affordable housing for those who need it most. HOPE VI projects have generated three or four private sector dollars for every government dollar spent. In 2003, the City of Utica, New York was a recipient of an \$11.5 million HOPE VI grant for the revitalization of a residential property- especially in the Cornhill area. This grant has allowed for significant improvements in safety and greater access to services and facilities for its residents. It would be a shame if similar communities around the country were unable to reap the benefits the HOPE VI program provides.

Restores funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which this Administration has cut by nearly 35 percent since 2001. This bill provides \$922 million more than the President's request for CDBG grants which allow local governments – in cities such as Utica, Rome and Cortland, New York – to provide critical services to revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, and improve quality of life for those starved of financial resources.

Provides \$475 million for Amtrak operating grants and a total of \$1.37 billion for Amtrak - \$475 million more than the Administration's budget request. Reducing funding for passenger rail service not only hurts commuters between big cities, but also will result in decreased service between areas such as Utica and Albany, and even further west to Buffalo. Amtrak provides a majority of all intercity passenger rail service in the United States - reducing congestion and energy consumption. One full passenger train could mean 250 to 350 fewer cars on the road.

Arcuri, also a member of the distinguished House Committee on Rules, managed debate on the resolution providing for the Conference Report on H.R. 3074.

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